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Virtual Teams in Action

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Virtual Teams in Action

Lockheed Martin is an Aeronautics company located in Fort Worth, Texas. The company received a request from the Department of Defense of the United States to design besides create an F-35 fighter jet. This project will see BAE systems alongside Northrop Gunman help Lockheed as partners. Similarly, the development costs of this program were due to various nation's contributions. The project was underscored by complex cooperation as well s teamwork of diverse people involved. For teams to communicate and collaborate with other groups, it was necessary to set up a network. Thus, all those who participated in the project were able to track progress, use "true virtual connection" to share documents, and communicate with other employees. Various teams were equally facilitated to work across wider space and profound lengths. Moreover, the power of technology brought them together instead of separating them.

Question One

Virtual teams are pertinent in a situation depicting the need to complete a given special project regarding efforts from diverse and dissimilar individuals who are not physically present within the same workplace but present in different geographical locations and points across the globe time. The use of virtual teams depicts a good instance that illustrates the aspects of networking and teamwork. Other people collaborate by working from more than forty thousand computer stations to get the first fighter plane airborne in the case above. All the latter efforts should see the project completed in four years. Since this team of experts is not physically present but is situated in different parts of the world, the involved individuals need excessive and extensive collaboration through networking to accomplish the project. Thus, Lockheed Martin uses virtual teams in the case to successfully launch the project.

By using virtual teams, Lockheed Martin used experts from across multiple companies located worldwide, which allowed access to a lot of talent. There is also the factor of low office costs, although the technology required probably counteracts that aspect. Still, with the number of people working on the project, it is much more cost-effective to have a virtual team. Virtual teams also reduce the amount of travel time and meeting setups. They allow workforce flexibility and even access to multiple markets.

Question Two

Along with the advantages, there are potential problems that come along with virtual teams. One of them is the potential for technology failure. It is possible the internet may not work at some places or there is an unfortunate technical difficulty that can hinder communication progress at times (Bergiel, Bergiel & Balsmeier, 2008). Certain places may also experience a sudden loss of electricity compared to other locations. There is also the factor of language and cultural barriers, leading to misunderstandings between the workers. This can also include a lack of clarity on project objectives. Another problem to be faced is the different time zones due to the wide-scale of the geographical locations. Different timings in other areas could conflict with meeting times.

Question Three

Virtual team members should possess a positive attitude and be hardworking to overcome virtual teams' potential problems. Technology should be something that they are familiar with and have regular access to (Schulze & Krumm, 2017). They should also have a global mindset and be aware of what's happening around the worldwide span to understand their coworkers better. Members should be ready to share the responsibilities that they are working towards in the project. One of the most important things is that they should communicate appropriately and meaningfully with each other. Communication is one of the key factors. Virtual team members should be coordinated and flexible to meet the timing issues' demands and be efficient. They should also have the ability to control conflicts and manage a pleasant working environment amongst themselves.

Question Four

Lack of specific virtual teams training implies that most of them will fall short of their goals besides being unsuccessful in the long run. Additionally, the teams will eventually fail to satisfy the requirements of customers. Nonetheless, creating and leading a virtual team necessitates striking a balance between the right team, leadership, technology, and touchpoints (Ferrazzi, 2014). Hence, virtual teams should receive specific training in leading meetings and mentoring teams virtually through technology. They should be trained in monitoring the progress of the group and finding what problems the team has and what should be done to correct them. Finally, they should be trained in the usage of technology used to communicate with other team members.

In summation, the above case, which involved the construction of a stealth fighter jet through the coordination of virtual teams, depicts some of the fundamental aspects integral to the use and understanding of virtual teams' working. For instance, the use of virtual teams by Lockheed Martin proved advantageous since the company was empowered to use professionals from different companies worldwide, allowing access to an assortment of talent. This project's success depended on virtual teams' ability to exhibit a positive attitude and hard work, mastery of the right technology, and a global mindset. To sow above the potential problems that accompany virtual teams' use, the virtual teams needed to have received specific training in how to use technology to virtually mentor teams and lead meetings besides exhibiting the right activity in monitoring the progress of the group.

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